

TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Briefing Paper

National Highway System (NHS) – District of Columbia

- Carry over Funds \$22.6 million
- FY 2002 Apportionment \$46.2 million
- Total Available Funding \$68.8 million

NHS Program Purpose

- The program provides funding for an interconnected system of principal arterial routes that serve major population centers, airports, public transportation facilities and intermodal transportation facilities and other major travel destinations. These funds are also used for roadways that meet national defense requirements and serve interstate and interregional travel. Under certain circumstances NHS funds may be used to fund transit improvements in NHS Corridors.
- Miles of District Roads Eligible for NHS Funding: 79 Miles

Transfer Capabilities

- Up to 50 percent of the NHS annual apportionment may be transferred to the Interstate Maintenance Program, Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program and/or Bridge Program.
- With the approval of the Secretary of Transportation, and with sufficient notice and opportunity to comment, up to 100 percent of the NHS annual apportionment may be transferred to the Surface Transportation Program.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) – District of Columbia

- Funds apportioned to the District of Columbia for the FY 2002 Surface Transportation Program total \$31.5 million. Of this total, some funds are suballocated to the Urbanized Area (population over 200,000) and the Flexible or Any Area subcategories. These are the two subcategories which will receive the NHS funding under this proposed transfer. Current funding in these two subcategories are:
 - Carry over Funds \$11.2 million
 - FY 2002 Apportionment \$25.2 million
 - Total Available Funding \$36.4 million

STP Program Purpose

- Provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects on any Federal-aid highway, including the NHS, bridge projects on any public road, transit capital projects and intracity and intercity bus terminals and facilities.

- Miles of District Roads Eligible for STP Funding: 448 Miles

Impact of Transferring “Up to 80 percent” of FY 2002 Allocation of NHS Funds to the STP Program (Urbanized Area and Flexible/Any Area subcategories).

- FY 2002 NHS Funds: \$46.2 million
- “Up to 80 percent” proposed transfer: \$36.9 million
- NHS Carryover Funds and FY 2002 balance: \$31.9 million

Over the past five to ten years, the Department has invested heavily in repairing the District’s interstate roadway system and other NHS routes, including the Southwest/Southeast Freeway, Whitehurst Freeway, Anacostia Freeway and Kenilworth Avenue and New York Avenue, among some of the key interstate routes. Furthermore, the D.C. National Highway System Asset Preservation Contract, presently being implemented, will provide maintenance of the NHS system roadways for the next four years, further reducing capital investment needs.

As a result, the Department has less demand for major capital improvements along these NHS routes, and unspent funds are accumulating. Meanwhile, there are insufficient funds to meet all of the District’s transportation infrastructure improvements on the remaining federal-aid roadways (STP funded). Transferring approximately \$36.9 million from NHS to STP in FY 2002 will still leave a balance of approximately \$31.9 million in the NHS program. Also, STP funds can be used for capital improvements on all federal-aid roadways, including the NHS system.

Therefore this proposed transfer of funds will allow the District government to make critical improvements to our Federal-aid roadways while maintaining a safe reserve for future NHS projects.